Making a world of difference

annual report 1991

Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation

AN ALBERTA CROWN CORPORATION

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A direction for Alberta

Corporate Philosophy

The mission of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation is to promote the establishment and operation of cost-effective special waste management solutions in Alberta which globally demonstrate excellence in protecting public health and enhancing environmental quality.

Together, we're making a world of difference.

Report of the Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

As we enter a decade in which environmental concerns are becoming increasingly pressing, Alberta is in a fortunate position. In 1984, the province responded to the potential problem of hazardous wastes by establishing the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation. In 1987, the Corporation, in a joint venture with the private sector, opened Canada's first fully-integrated treatment centre.

Today, Alberta is the only Canadian jurisdiction with an established special waste treatment centre and transportation system - something which enables not only the effective management of present waste flows but also the gradual elimination of wastes in storage. And, because of the success of the Alberta Special Waste Management System, the province is able to take a pro-active stance in the management of potentially-hazardous wastes as they are recognized.

Having a solution in place allows the introduction of appropriate new waste control legislation and the encouragement of collection programs for both large and small-volume waste generators. It gives credence to Alberta's program of public education and enables the sharing of proven expertise with other provinces and other nations.

The success of these efforts, however, rests principally on the continued efficiency of the Treatment Centre. The operation - which was originally designed to treat mainly liquid wastes - is now struggling to accommodate an ever-more varied waste flow, with an increasing volume of solid wastes.

Consequently, the Corporation's first priority in 1990 was that of working closely with its joint-venture partner and

the operator of the Treatment Centre, to find ways of improving the Centre's flow-through capacity and the productivity of personnel.

In the process, it became clear that the supplementary rotary kiln, added in an effort to accommodate increasing flows of solid wastes, was not providing sufficient additional capacity to overtake the volumes being received.

It was a contingency for which plans had been prepared. In February 1991, the system operator commenced an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) based on a proposal to increase the facility's capacity by approximately 40 000 tonnes a year.

The EIA was drafted on the basis of data prepared by the operator and independent consulting firms and incorporates information gained from an extensive public consultation program commenced in November, 1990 and continuing throughout spring 1991.

• *A commitment to the 4Rs*

While the need for plant expansion is undeniable, it does prompt a reassessment of the Corporation's role and responsibilities.

If Albertans are to succeed in eliminating stored hazardous wastes and controlling waste generation, it is clear that the treatment program must be matched by a government, industry and public commitment to the '4Rs' of waste management: Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Recovery.

Without this commitment, the Alberta Special Waste Management System will continually be reacting to the volume of wastes generated - so that waste treatment becomes an accepted procedure rather than a last resort.

The Corporation maintains that the '4Rs' must be viewed as the most desirable objective and that waste must be reduced and recycled to the ultimate degree as a prerequisite of treatment.

• *New legislation*

At the same time, the economics and technology of waste treatment demand that hazardous and special wastes should be classified more precisely - something that is being addressed in proposed new legislation. By specifying the difference between special waste and hazardous waste using such criteria as toxicity, flammability and so on, it will be possible to classify wastes more precisely and to determine the best management strategy.

The Corporation's working definition of special wastes as wastes requiring special treatment is no longer sufficient in identifying and classifying the complex and subtle categories of wastes, which may or may not be hazardous to human health and the environment. The ASWMC needs to become involved in the management of various other products and waste materials for which the present 'special treatment' definition is inappropriate.

• *Objectives for the future*

Now that Alberta's system is in place and functioning successfully, a priority for the coming year is to review all aspects of the operation for the best use of financial and physical resources.

It should be emphasized here that the Corporation's mandate embraces much more than the supervision of treatment and disposal processes. Its responsibilities entail the management of a comprehensive support system which involves public education, collection systems, storage, brokerage of wastes, pre-treatment, handling and transportation.

The past year has seen these operations adapted to include the management of household hazardous wastes, the coordination of waste drug round-ups, and the disposal of school chemicals. Because any system for handling changing waste flows must evolve, the Corporation's role will continue to change.

• ***Export of technology***

Alberta has gained a wealth of technical expertise in the development of its special waste management system and has made significant advances in waste management research. As a result, ASWMC, through its partnership with the private sector, is becoming increasingly involved in the potential export of technology and services.

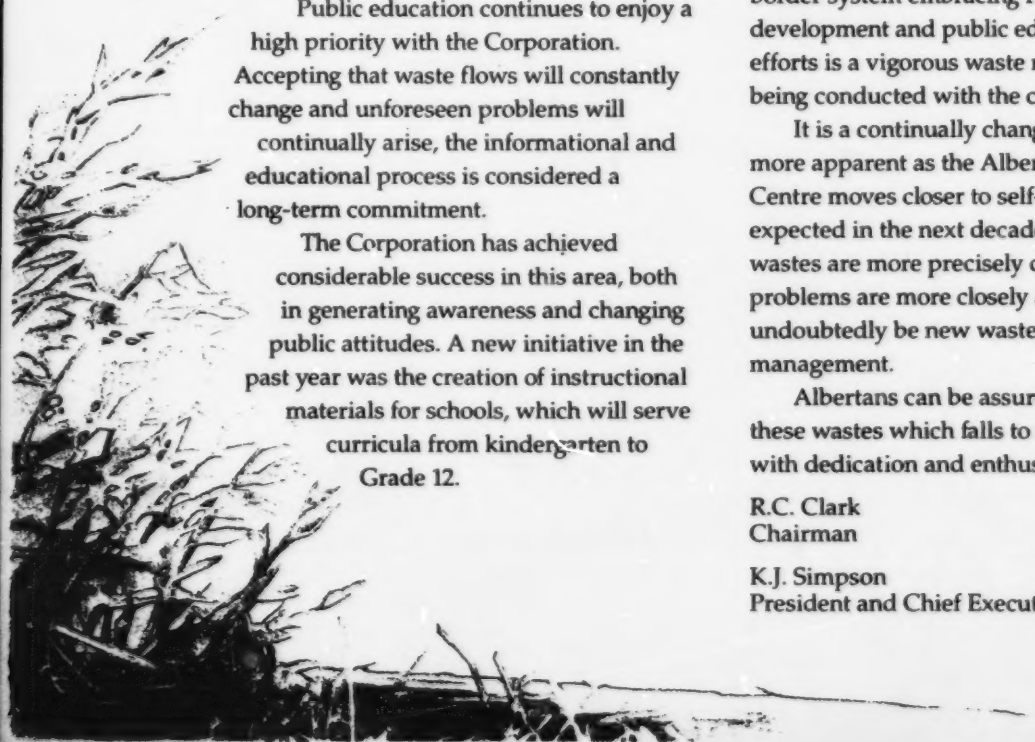
One example is the transformer decontamination equipment being developed at the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre. Presently under construction, it is a unique furnace that completely scours contaminated transformers and other equipment, enabling materials to be safely recycled. Such technology offers obvious benefits to other national and international jurisdictions.

Similarly, in the research field, ASWMC is supporting ground-breaking research into the biological treatment of wastes. Here, too, there is the possibility of exporting acquired information and techniques.

• ***Informational programs***

Public education continues to enjoy a high priority with the Corporation. Accepting that waste flows will constantly change and unforeseen problems will continually arise, the informational and educational process is considered a long-term commitment.

The Corporation has achieved considerable success in this area, both in generating awareness and changing public attitudes. A new initiative in the past year was the creation of instructional materials for schools, which will serve curricula from kindergarten to Grade 12.



• ***The changing role of the Corporation***

For many Albertans, the work of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation is related solely to the supervision of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre. This is an understandable perception since the Centre has been the main focus of the Corporation's efforts until now.

In fact, the activities of the Corporation extend far beyond those of ensuring proper treatment facilities. They include the management of a comprehensive, border-to-border system embracing research, technological development and public education. Included in these efforts is a vigorous waste minimization program now being conducted with the cooperation of industry.

It is a continually changing role which will become more apparent as the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre moves closer to self-sufficiency - an achievement expected in the next decade. As potentially hazardous wastes are more precisely classified, and pollution problems are more closely addressed, there will undoubtedly be new waste streams requiring specialized management.

Albertans can be assured that any responsibility for these wastes which falls to the Corporation, will be met with dedication and enthusiasm.

R.C. Clark
Chairman

K.J. Simpson
President and Chief Executive Officer

A year of achievement

Amendments to the Special Waste Management Corporation Act

Since the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation was established in 1984, its responsibilities have increased considerably. Originally formed to ensure the establishment and operation of facilities for hazardous waste management, the Corporation is now engaged in a variety of complementary activities.

Because of this, amendments to the Special Waste Management Corporation Act have been proposed to better reflect the current role of the Corporation. These amendments acknowledge such responsibilities as:

- The development of a more complete system of special waste management solutions in Alberta
- Continuing education in waste management practices
- Public information programs
- Support for, and supervision of, community environmental programs such as Toxic Round Ups and Oil Recovery Alberta
- International activities related to the improvement of waste management practices and the sharing of Alberta's expertise.

Initiatives will be pursued in Indonesia, where ASWMC is advising the government on special waste treatment and in Australia where the Corporation is involved in several projects.

A draft amendment Bill has been submitted to government for review and approval. Introduction into the Legislature is expected in June 1991.

Planning for the future

Proposed expansion of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre

Nineteen ninety saw an increased demand for special waste treatment and the continued identification of new waste streams by industry and other generators. The resultant backlog at the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre showed a clear need for more waste treatment capacity if the Corporation is to continue to fulfill its mandate.

To understand this need, it must be remembered that the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre is an integrated facility designed to handle various types of waste through different methods of treatment and disposal. These wastes fall into two broad categories: organics and inorganics.

Organic liquids and solids are hydrocarbon-based. They include waste oils, solvents, paints, pesticides and PCBs. The most successful treatment for these wastes is high-temperature incineration.

It has been estimated that Alberta has some 90 000 tonnes of organic wastes stored or awaiting treatment in addition to the 50 000 tonnes generated annually within the province. About half this amount - 40 000 tonnes of stored waste and 25 000 tonnes annually of generated wastes - will require disposal at the Treatment Centre.

Current incineration capacity for organic waste at the Treatment Centre is approximately 13 500 tonnes per annum - including the capacity of the recently-added rotary kiln incinerator.

Inorganic liquids and solids are not hydrocarbon-based. They include acids, alkalies, heavy metals and cyanides. Inorganics are treated by various physical or chemical methods.

The relatively small input of inorganic wastes, projected to be some 3 000 tonnes per annum, can readily be accommodated by the Centre's existing equipment and processes.

Faced with a preponderance of organic wastes, and particularly, the hard-to-incinerate organic solids and sludges - the operator of the Alberta Special Waste Management System responded with a proposal for expansion.

After determining the quantities and types of waste requiring treatment over a five-year period, and reviewing various treatment options (including landfill, biological treatment, storage, export, solidification and fuels blending) the operator proposed an additional rotary kiln incineration system as the best solution.

A 40 000 tonne capacity rotary kiln has been recommended which has the potential to eliminate the existing backlog in three to five years.

Making it work

Operations

• ***Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)***

Independent consultants conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment on the possible effects of the proposed expansion, and concluded that it poses no risk to human health or the environment. To properly assess community attitudes towards the proposal, a public participation program is now in place.

This comprehensive program will involve public meetings in seventeen Alberta communities: Barrhead, Calgary, Edmonton, Fort Assiniboine, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Hinton, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Medicine Hat, Morinville, Red Deer, Slave Lake, Stony Plain, Swan Hills, Westlock and Whitecourt. Following these meetings, which begin in April 1991, the EIA will be revised to reflect public input before being submitted to Alberta Environment for approval or further action.

The environmental monitoring program at the Treatment Centre was established prior to construction and will be continued beyond the active life of the facility. Samples of air, water, soil, vegetation and wildlife collected at 14 locations within a 25 km^2 range are analysed for heavy metals, mercury, PCBs, fluoride, phenols, cyanide, arsenic and selenium. By comparing current results with samples analysed before the plant went into operation, scientists can detect even the smallest change in the environment.

The environmental monitoring system proved its effectiveness in 1989 when it detected minute changes in tissue samples taken from the area's most common small mammal, Gapper's red-backed vole. The discovery of a change in the animals' PCB levels prompted a thorough audit of the plant site.

A study of plant procedures discovered that the off-site PCB residues appeared to come from the vapours and fumes present during normal handling practices rather than from the incinerator stack.

An extensive remedial program was initiated to reduce and, where practical, eliminate the sources of these fugitive emissions, even though the recorded fume levels were at least 15 times lower than permitted levels for occupational exposure.

An independent toxicological study was commissioned, which determined that emissions from the Centre do not constitute a health hazard to wildlife or humans.

- The PCB transformer processing area, suspected of being a significant cause, has since been shut down and all transformer processing has been postponed until a new, contained process can be implemented.
- All storage and processing areas are being evaluated. New handling procedures to reduce and, preferably, eliminate fugitive emissions are being developed.
- Plant employees, Swan Hills Town Council, the Community Liaison Committee and Alberta Environment were immediately advised of the situation and are kept abreast of study results.

- The operator, through its publications, academic papers, and business contacts, is passing on information about fugitive emissions to other major PCB handlers.

The Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre is the only known chemical processing plant employing this extensive level of environmental monitoring. The findings of the monitoring program, supplemented by the toxicological study, provide pertinent information for the protection of the environment and the health and safety of employees.

• *Review of Monitoring Program*

The environmental monitoring program at the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre continually examines the condition and quality of surface water and groundwater, soil, vegetation, wildlife and aquatic life.

The program is an 'integrated' operation - meaning that the results from the various series of tests are studied both independently and in relation to other findings. Water sampling, for instance, might confirm or question the results found in animal tissue tests. Exhaustive cross-checking of this type is used to verify all findings.

The Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation regularly reviews these procedures with a view to maintaining and improving the high standard of environmental monitoring in and around the facility. As well, the University of Alberta conducts an independent review of the monitoring program for the Town of Swan Hills.

While the environmental monitoring program is essentially an early warning system, enabling corrective actions to be taken in the event of unacceptable change brought about by the operation of the plant, it is proving useful in other respects. For example, the program provided unprecedented baseline information for the proposed expansion of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre; and it is helping to develop world class expertise among Alberta's environmental scientists.

• *Productivity*

Continued emphasis on production resulted in a 33% increase over 1990 in the volume of waste treated by the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre. The Corporation's operations staff continue to work as part of the joint venture operating committee with the private-sector owner and with the operator of the Alberta Special Waste Management System, to promote productivity, maintain world-class technical leadership, and support the development of staff skills.

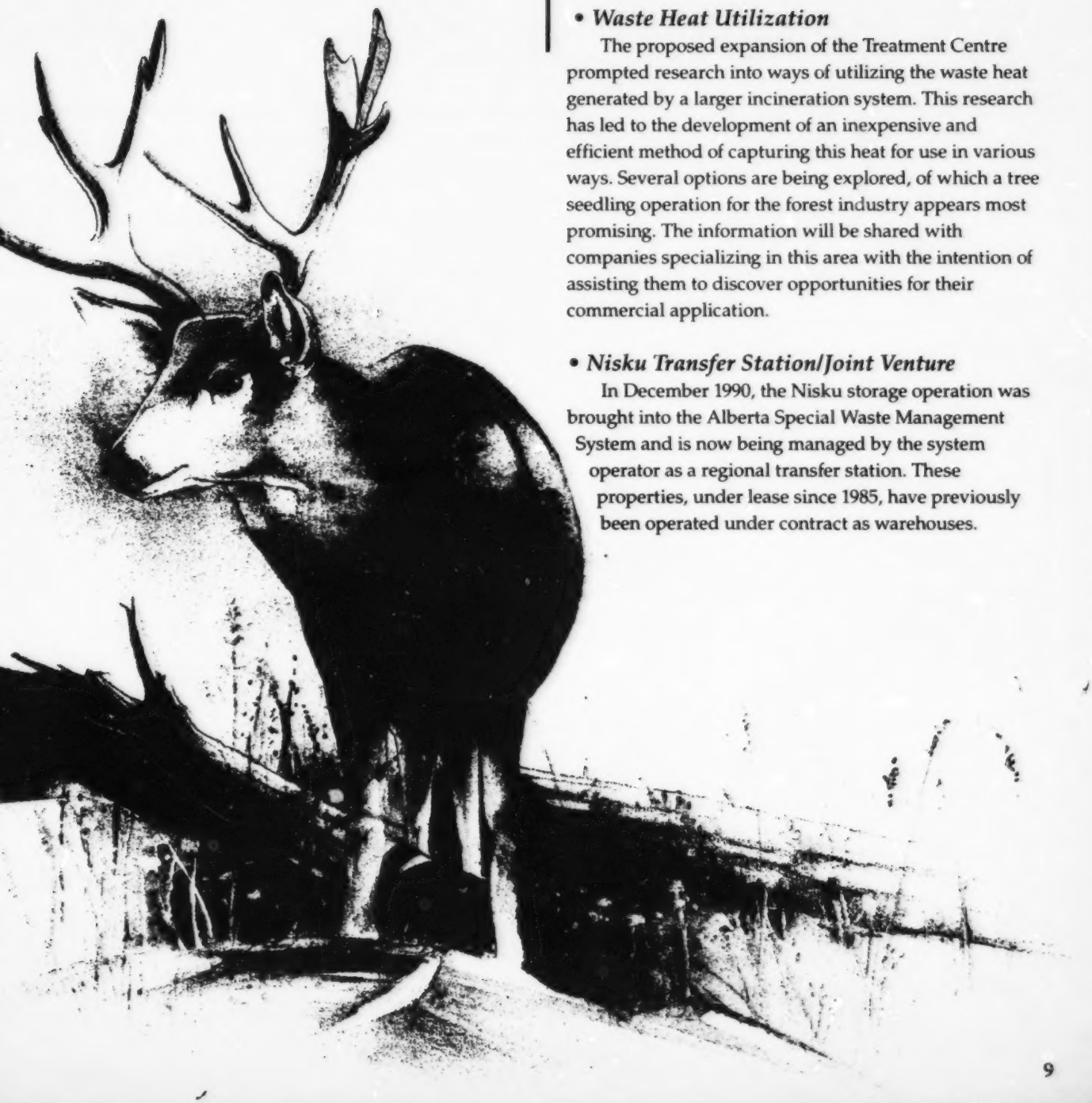
This emphasis on productivity is coupled with stringently enforced precautions for the protection of the employees and the environment. The Corporation staff provides and supports liaison with regulatory agencies to ensure all groups remain fully informed.

• *Transformer Furnace*

The Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre has devised a new method for the safe destruction of electrical transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The 'transformer roaster' will treat transformers and other contaminated equipment in a bell-shaped furnace that vaporizes and removes contaminants for subsequent treatment in the incinerator. The metals can then be recycled.

The development of this process is a practical demonstration of the Centre's commitment to the 4Rs philosophy.

A permit to construct the equipment has been received and fabrication is under way. The transformer roaster is expected to be in operation by the first quarter of 1992. Patents are pending for this innovative process.



- ***Waste Heat Utilization***

The proposed expansion of the Treatment Centre prompted research into ways of utilizing the waste heat generated by a larger incineration system. This research has led to the development of an inexpensive and efficient method of capturing this heat for use in various ways. Several options are being explored, of which a tree seedling operation for the forest industry appears most promising. The information will be shared with companies specializing in this area with the intention of assisting them to discover opportunities for their commercial application.

- ***Nisku Transfer Station/Joint Venture***

In December 1990, the Nisku storage operation was brought into the Alberta Special Waste Management System and is now being managed by the system operator as a regional transfer station. These properties, under lease since 1985, have previously been operated under contract as warehouses.

Environmental protection begins with the individual

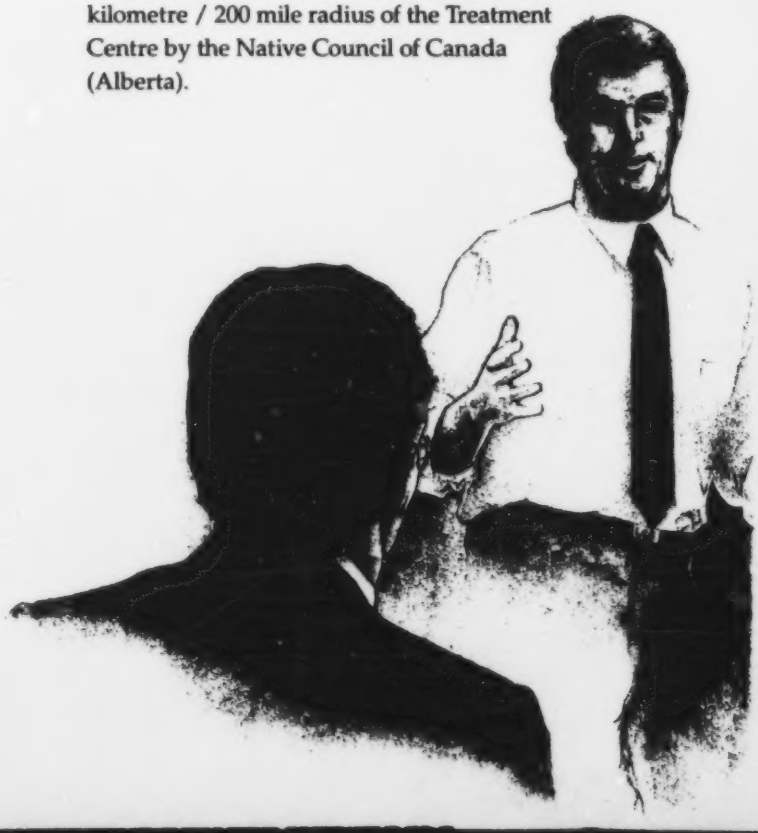
• *EIA Public Participation Component*

In response to the proposed expansion of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre, the Minister of the Environment ordered a full Environmental Impact Assessment in October 1990. Extensive public input is a required part of this EIA.

Together, the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, its private sector partner and the system operator established a steering committee to initiate the public consultation process.

In November, ASWMC participated in a multi-stakeholder meeting which determined the common concerns to be addressed in the draft EIA. This initial phase of the program was supplemented by individual consultations with environmental groups, industry, health associations and other interested parties.

Aboriginal consultations on the proposed expansion were conducted in four communities within a 333-kilometre / 200 mile radius of the Treatment Centre by the Native Council of Canada (Alberta).



Together, we can make a world of difference

Communications

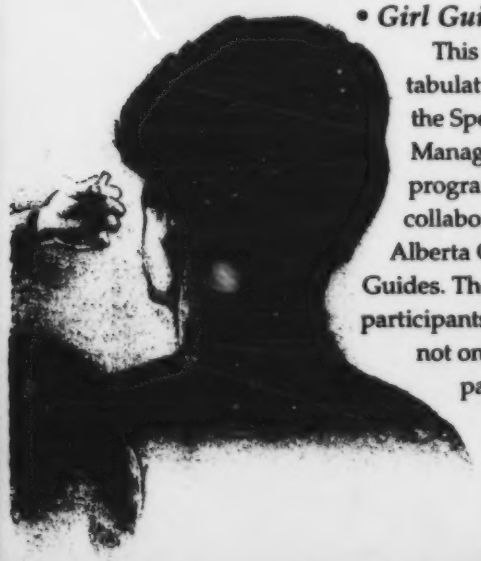
The Corporation initiated an educational program on waste management for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, with special emphasis on hazardous waste management in Alberta. Development of the program is expected to be complete by summer of 1992.

The program is considered essential to the Corporation's long term goal of significantly reducing the flow of wastes requiring special treatment.

• *Community Involvement*

As part of its awareness program, the Corporation conducted a contest with Alberta schools for the design of its 1990 Christmas card. The winning design was created by Lisa McKinney (10) a Grade 5 student at Iron River School, Iron River, Alberta. Lisa won a $100 gift certificate from a local book store for her school, together with a framed "There is a Better Way" poster as a personal memento.

The contest was a first step for the Corporation, serving as a preliminary to the overall education program now being developed for schools.



• *Girl Guide Program*

This year saw the first tabulation of results from the Special Waste Management Challenge, a program developed in collaboration with the Alberta Council of Girl Guides. The evaluation of participants in 1989 showed not only a high level of participation but a level of involvement that exceeded all expectations. Altogether, 35 groups responded to a survey showing that 686 people completed the Challenge and received the achievement crest. Interestingly, this total included nearly 100 adults.

• *Community Education Program*

The Corporation's "In Our Backyard" Study Guide was revised and updated with a teacher's guide, slides, video and new text.

The first "In Our Backyard" community education program for seminar leaders was conducted with marked success. Ninety-seven people from 40 communities completed the program. These group leaders are now available to speak to community and special interest groups in Alberta.

Drawn mostly from rural residents having a clear understanding of the potential problems, these leaders have proven invaluable in educating communities on the need for special waste management. Their contribution continues to ease the demand on the Corporation's physical and financial resources.

Evaluation of the Community Education program is presently taking place and is expected to be complete by the fall of 1991.

• *Public Information Program*

As part of its public information program, the Corporation developed a monthly newspaper column to disseminate information on special waste management. Entitled "In Our Backyard", the column appears in 80 weekly newspapers and includes a complimentary space for waste management information supplied by each community.

The column has been welcomed by communities and newspapers alike - and has so far served to promote events ranging from toxic round-ups to classroom recycling projects.

How you're helping - and how you can help

Programs

Great Drug Round Up

The Great Drug Round Up is an annual collection of old, unused and outdated medications, sponsored by Alberta's pharmacists with the support of Registered Nurses, the Poison and Drug Information Centre, and ASWMC. Its aim is to reduce the incidence of poisonings in the home and to ensure the proper disposal of medicines. (The Poison Centre responds to more than 500 drug poisonings of children under five every month, with medicines being the most common cause.)

In 1990, the Great Drug Round Up collected over 20 tonnes of such materials. Community pharmacies served as collection sites for the campaign with 682 pharmacies participating.

- ***Toxic Round Up Alberta***

Toxic Round Up Alberta is a program to encourage householders to remove hazardous substances from households and to increase awareness of potentially hazardous materials. Started in 1988, with eight communities participating, Toxic Round Up Alberta achieved unprecedented success in the past year.

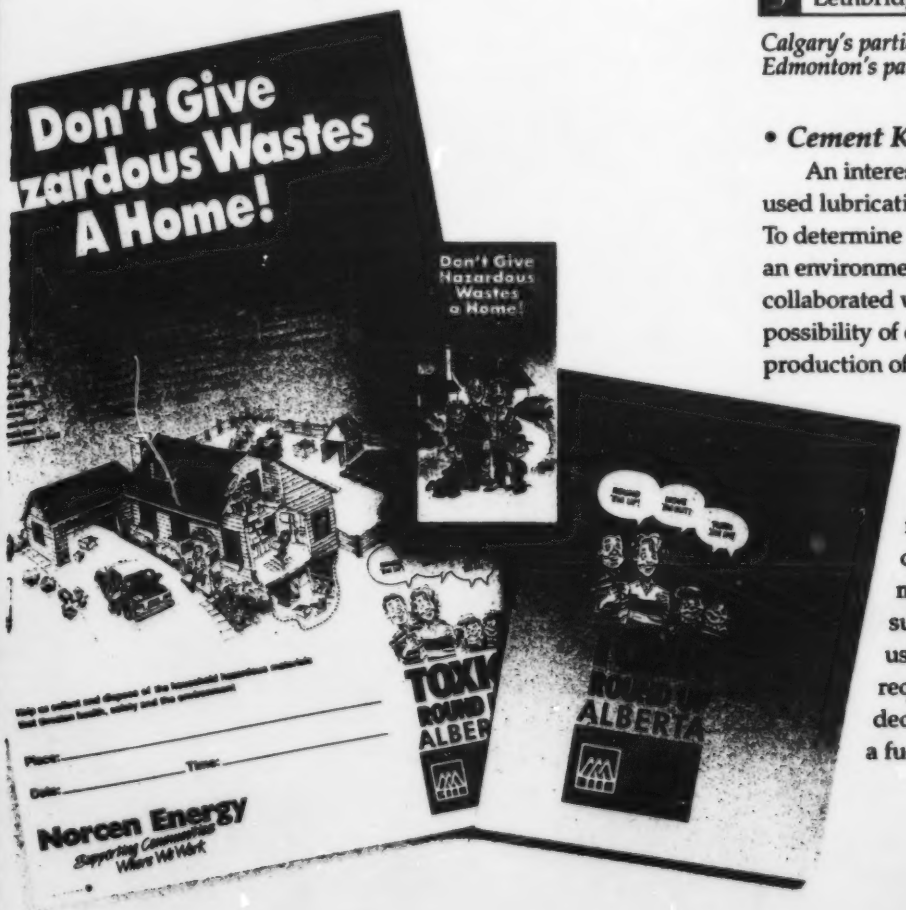
From April to October, 1990, 130 communities participated in Toxic Round Ups at 120 locations throughout the province.

Three thousand, four hundred and fifty eight drums of special wastes were collected. The total cost for collection, handling, treatment and support to communities was approximately $2.3 million.

In a comparison of public participation in Toxic Round Ups, both Edmonton and Calgary were listed among the top five cities in North America. With about two percent of residents

taking part, both cities drew more participants than San Francisco which has a permanent, year-round collection site.

In Alberta, the communities of Beaverlodge, Bon Accord, Entwistle, Lethbridge and Lougheed recorded the highest per-capita participation rates, with participation from *four to nine percent* of their populations. The typical successful participation rate for household hazardous waste collection programs in North America is two percent.



TOXIC ROUND UP ALBERTA

1990 Household Hazardous Waste Round Ups:
Top five cities in North America.

1	Casper, Wyoming
2	Sioux City & Woodbury, Iowa
3	Calgary, Alberta
4	Edmonton, Alberta
5	San Francisco, California*

** San Francisco operates a permanent collection site year-round.*

1990 Household Hazardous Waste Round Ups:
Top five communities in Alberta by participation rate, i.e. percentage of population

1	Lougheed	9.0%
2	Bon Accord	7.2%
3	Beaverlodge	5.4%
4	Entwistle	5.2%
5	Lethbridge	4.5%

Calgary's participation rate was 2.24%
Edmonton's participation rate was 2.17%

- ***Cement Kiln Test Burn***

An interesting experiment in the re-use of Alberta's used lubricating oil took place in Edmonton during June. To determine whether energy recovery using waste oil is an environmentally acceptable option, the Corporation collaborated with private sector companies to test the possibility of employing it as a fuel source in the production of cement.

A three-day test burn used reclaimed oil from a variety of sources including publicly-funded oil drop tanks across the province. Emissions were carefully monitored and tests were conducted on the cement to ensure that quality was maintained. This pioneering project successfully demonstrated that this waste, used as a fuel, can meet emission requirements. It is now up to industry to decide whether or not to utilize this material as a fuel source.

• *Oil Recovery Alberta*

The increasing support of the private sector in the management of special wastes is exemplified by this new program, announced by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation and the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA).

Launched on March 4, 1991, Oil Recovery Alberta is a joint venture of the Corporation and UFA, intended to provide a recycling option for the agricultural community and prevent the dumping and accumulation of used oil in Alberta's environment. At no charge to individuals, UFA agencies in more than 125 communities will accept uncontaminated used oil and the associated plastic oil containers. The program supplies the used oil to Alberta's re-refining industry while the containers are collected for recycling.

It is expected that between three and six million litres of used oil will be recovered in the first year of the program.

• *Pesticide Container Program*

In September 1989, at the request of Alberta Environment, the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation assumed responsibility for the management of Alberta's empty pesticide containers.

Under the provincial program, discarded pesticide containers are separated from the municipal waste stream and stored in approved collection sites for recycling. There are 106 of these sites in the province, each one owned and operated by the local municipality and approved by Alberta Environment.

The Corporation contracts with private industry to clean the containers of residues and recycle the container materials. Pesticide containers are made of plastic or steel, with some use of aluminum.

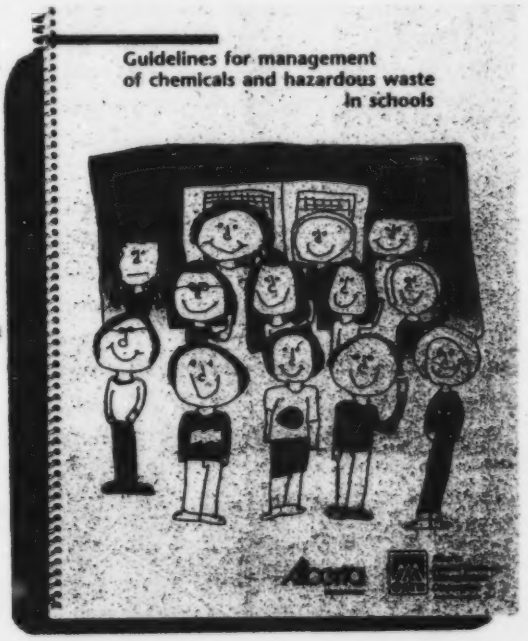
All sites holding containers from the 1990 spray season were cleaned out by January 1991. Recycling of metal containers began at a facility in Medicine Hat and plastic containers were drained, shredded and stored in anticipation of a recycling solution. The residue from the containers is sent to the Treatment Centre for treatment and disposal.

• *School Chemical Clean-Up*

Alberta's schools have been dealing with unwanted chemicals in various ways, ranging from disposal in landfills or sewers to storage or private sector disposal.

In January 1990, a preliminary survey of 38 schools suggested that in excess of 416 cubic metres of chemical waste is currently stored in educational institutions, an amount equivalent to some 2,100 two hundred and fifty-litre drums of lab-packed waste. Concerned over the problem, government approved a two-year $2 million program for the removal and disposal of such wastes, to be funded by the Alberta Lottery Fund.

Commencing in March 1991, the Corporation, in conjunction with Alberta Environment and Alberta Education, will undertake an extensive clean-up of potentially hazardous wastes and chemicals from all Alberta schools. This one-time special project will systematically collect, classify and package unwanted chemicals for delivery to recycling facilities coordinated by the University of Alberta or the Treatment Centre for proper treatment.



• *Hazardous Waste Loading in Community Landfills*

Hazardous wastes in rural communities are disposed of by various means. Some are collected periodically and shipped to central disposal facilities. Others are discharged to the community landfill or to sewers.

As an alternative, the Corporation is endeavoring to cooperate with key communities and waste management firms in siting transfer stations to collect and bulk hazardous wastes prior to shipment to the Swan Hills treatment centre.

To enable communities and hazardous waste management firms to weigh the environmental impact of hazardous waste in landfills against the impact of hosting a transfer station, the Corporation has commissioned a detailed study in a typical medium-sized community.

The Town of Drayton Valley has been selected for this research project which commenced in September 1990. The project involves four months of preliminary research and six months of field work, sampling, measuring and analysing wastes deposited in the landfill.

The project will survey households, local businesses and industries for rates of use and disposal methods, sample wastes discharged to the landfill, measure landfill leachates and gas emissions, and study the nature of wastes discharged to the sewer.

Results of the research are expected to provide significant input into community waste management planning and risk-based decision making.

A personal commitment

The Corporation

The Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation is a provincial Crown Corporation responsible for the development and management of a system to handle hazardous wastes not being adequately dealt with by other facilities.

It ensures that all components of the system meet established standards with respect to public health, safety and environmental quality.

The activities of the Corporation are governed by a Board appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the basis of recommendations by the Minister of Environment. The intention is to represent the interests of Albertans in all areas with people of proven effectiveness in business, technology and public affairs.

Members serve a two-year or three-year term, overlapping their periods of service to ensure continuity.

• ***Members of the Board***

Standing: (Left to Right)

Tak Okamura
Lethbridge

Peter N. Moore
Slave Lake

Ken J. Simpson, M.Sc., P.Eng.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Seated: (Left to Right)

William K. Ross, P.Eng.
Vice-Chairman, Calgary

Joan Butler
Swan Hills

Maurice A. Fitzpatrick
Leduc

Robert C. Clark
Chairman, Carstairs

• ***The Board***

Swan Hills town councillor Joan Butler was appointed to the Board of Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation on June 1st, 1990, commencing a three year term of office. A resident of Swan Hills since 1966, Mrs. Butler operated a number of community businesses until her retirement. She was one of the original four members of the Swan Hills Liaison Committee, serving from May 1985 until November 1986, when she resigned upon her election to the Town Council.

Director Al McFarlane resigned to take employment in Saskatchewan. Formerly a board member and president of the Whitecourt Chamber of Commerce, Mr. McFarlane was named Businessman of the Year by the

Alberta Chamber of Commerce in 1985. He had served with the Board since August 1989.

• *Officers and Staff of the Corporation*

There were seven changes to the staff of the Corporation. Mark Polet was named Vice-President, Operations; Janyne Sinclaire was appointed Coordinator, Community Relations; J.E. (Jolie) Whetzel took over the responsibility of Manager, Programs; Jay Nagendran was appointed Manager, Environment; and Michele Burkhardt took over the role of Secretary, Operations. Tom Thackeray, formerly Program Development Manager, was promoted to Director of Policy, Planning and Development. Laurine Martell joined the Corporation as Receptionist.

Ken J. Simpson, M.Sc., P. Eng., President and Chief Executive Officer

Mark P. Polet, P. Biol.,Vice-President, Operations

Ronald E. McKague, F.C.A, Vice-President, Finance and Administration

Irene L. Chanin, B.A., Vice-President, Communications

Tom Thackeray, P. Biol., Director, Policy, Planning and Development

Jay Nagendran, M.Sc., P. Eng., D.E.E., Manager, Environment

Jolie Whetzel, M.C.I.P, Manager, Programs

Janyne B. Sinclaire, Coordinator, Community Relations

Tracey L. Moll, E.I.T., Technical Assistant, Operations

Colleen P. Smecko, Manager, Office Services

Judy J. Augustin, Administrative Assistant, Communications

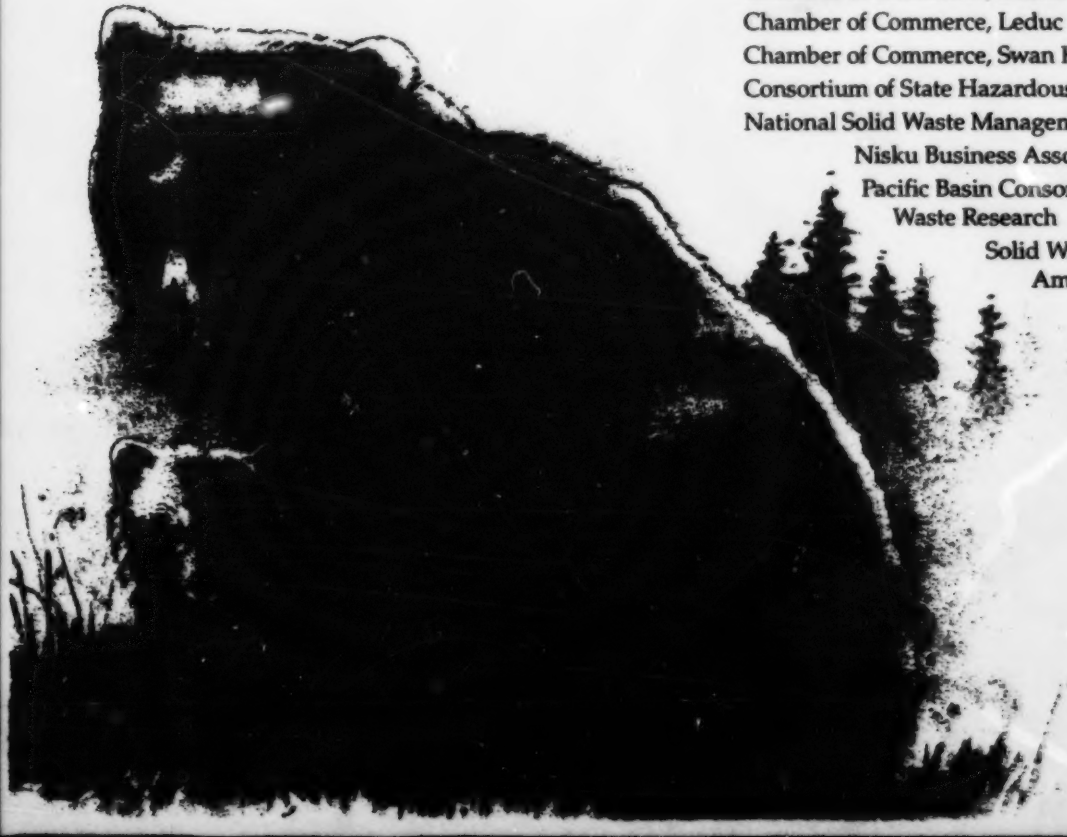
Janette P. MacKinnon, Clerk/Steno

Michele Burkhardt, Secretary, Operations

Laurine Martell, Receptionist

• *Memberships*

Air and Waste Management Association
Alberta Special Waste Services Association
Better Business Bureau, Edmonton
Chamber of Commerce, Edmonton
Chamber of Commerce, Leduc
Chamber of Commerce, Swan Hills
Consortium of State Hazardous Waste Siting Authorities
National Solid Waste Management Association
Nisku Business Association
Pacific Basin Consortium for Hazardous Waste Research
Solid Waste Association of North America



• *Swan Hills Liaison Committee*

In 1985, some of the Swan Hills residents who were involved in the siting process for the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre formed a citizens' group to maintain local involvement in the operations of the plant. Known as the Swan Hills Liaison Committee, the group was organized to help identify local issues and to convey information between the Corporation and the community. The group stresses the informational nature of its role - emphasizing that any negotiations with the Centre's operators are the rightful responsibility of the town's elected officials.

Over the past five years, the volunteers comprising this committee have maintained their intermediary role with remarkable dedication and have contributed a great deal to the establishment of Alberta's special waste management system.

Continuing its practice of continually involving new participants, the six-person committee welcomed three new members this year, Duane Dingman, Chris Brunelle and Marrilee Stephenson.

• *Swan Hills Liaison Committee*

Deb Spiller, Chairperson
Chris Brunelle
Lana Dakin
Duane Dingman
Doug Leavitt
Rose Parker
Marrilee Stephenson
Dave Wenger

• *Recognition*

In 1990, the residents of Swan Hills were accorded a singular honour by the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta. The Association presented Swan Hills with a plaque of appreciation for its contribution to the success of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre.

Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

Office of the Minister

130 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-2391

December, 1991

Honourable Dr. D. Carter
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Sir:

I have the honour to present the seventh annual report of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, which covers the fiscal year ending March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph P. Klein
Minister of the Environment

Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation

AN ALBERTA CROWN CORPORATION

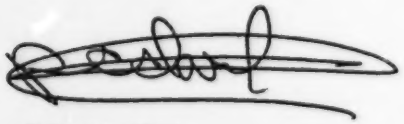
December, 1991

Honourable Ralph P. Klein
Minister
Alberta Environment
130 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Sir:

I have the honour to present the seventh annual report of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, which covers the fiscal year ending March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Clark
Chairman

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation

I have audited the balance sheet of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation as at March 31, 1991 and the statement of revenue, expenditure and retained earnings for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 1991 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the disclosed basis of accounting as described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Donald D. Salmon

FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
September 3, 1991

Balance Sheet

As at March 31, 1991
(thousands of dollars)

ASSETS	1991	1990
Current:		
Cash	$15,936	$ 8,776
Accounts receivable	909	1,433
Prepaid expense	12	5
	16,857	10,214
Investment in joint venture (Note 4)	14,013	17,777
Capital (Note 5)	2,980	2,931
	$33,850	$30,922
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Due to joint venture	$ 1,258	$ 1,118
Accounts payable	855	581
Estimated future treatment costs (Note 6)	1,089	1,891
Security deposits	15	15
	3,217	3,605
Due to joint venture, deferred (Note 7)	8,530	3,425
Equity:		
Equity in joint venture	14,013	17,777
Equity in capital assets	2,980	2,931
Retained earnings	5,110	3,184
	22,103	23,892
	$33,850	$30,922

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Retained Earnings

For the year ended March 31, 1991
(thousands of dollars)

REVENUE	1991	1990
Grant from the Province of Alberta, General Revenue Fund	$37,100	$25,065
Interest earnings	3,318	2,242
Other	28	2
	40,446	27,309
EXPENDITURE		
Joint Venture:		
Contribution to operations, net (Note 8)	30,311	24,303
Investment (recovery) (Note 4)	(3,764)	1,791
Operating, Schedule 1	11,973	6,431
	38,520	32,525
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure	1,926	(5,216)
Retained earnings at beginning of year, as restated (Note 3)	3,184	8,400
Retained earnings at end of year	$ 5,110	$ 3,184

The accompanying notes are part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 1991

NOTE 1
AUTHORITY

The Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation operates under the authority of the Special Waste Management Act, Chapter S-21.5, Statutes of Alberta 1982, as amended.

NOTE 2
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

a) These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles except as follows:

(i) The cost of capital assets is expensed in the year of acquisition. Capital assets are also shown on the balance sheet at cost with a corresponding credit to equity in capital assets.

(ii) The annual investment in or recovery from the participation in the joint venture is included in expenditure for the year. The cumulative net investment is shown on the balance sheet at cost with a corresponding credit to equity in joint venture.

(b) A statement of changes in financial position has not been provided as disclosure in these financial statements is considered to be adequate.

NOTE 3
CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY FOR CONTRIBUTION TO JOINT VENTURE OPERATIONS

In previous years, the Corporation's contribution to joint venture operations was reported net of deferred revenue held by the joint venture. This year, the Corporation's contribution to joint venture operations has been reported gross without any adjustment for deferred revenue. Accordingly, the Corporation also reports a liability to the joint venture (see Note 7). The effect of this change, which has been applied retroactively, on the current year is to decrease the excess of revenue over expenditure by $5,105,177 (1990 $1,495,598). In addition, there is a cumulative decrease in the investment and equity in joint venture by $5,686,530 (1990 $2,283,079).

The impact of this restatement on the retained earnings account is as follows:

	1991	1990
	(thousands of dollars)	
Retained earnings at beginning of year, as previously reported	$ 6,609	$10,329
Accrual for increase in contributions to operations, net	(3,425)	(1,929)
Retained earnings at beginning of year, as restated	$ 3,184	$ 8,400

NOTE 4
INVESTMENT IN JOINT VENTURE

In a joint venture to establish, own, operate and maintain a part of the Alberta Special Waste Management System, the Corporation and Bovar have a 40% and 60% interest respectively. The Corporation's investment in the joint venture is summarized hereunder:

	1991	1990
	(thousands of dollars)	
Balance at beginning of year, as restated	$17,777	$15,986
Investment (recovery)	(3,764)	1,791
Balance at end of year	$14,013	$17,777

NOTE 5

CAPITAL ASSETS

CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

	Balance March 31, 1990	Additions During Year	Deletions	Balance March 31, 1991
	(thousands of dollars)			
Swan Hills facility services:				
Utilities	$2,383	$46	$ -	$2,429
Deep well lease	90	-	-	90
Land	74	-	-	74
	2,547	46	-	2,593
Furniture and equipment	142	36	33	145
Leasehold improvements	242	-	-	242
	$2,931	$82	$33	$2,980

NOTE 6

ESTIMATED FUTURE TREATMENT COSTS

Corporation sponsored community programs have accumulated waste for which the future treatment cost is estimated as follows:

	1991	1990
	(thousands of dollars)	
Pesticide containers	$1,089	$1,374
Household materials	-	517
	$1,089	$1,891

NOTE 7

DUE TO JOINT VENTURE, DEFERRED

An agreement between the Corporation and Bovar provides that a portion of the Corporation's contribution to the joint venture's operations is not payable until such time as the related joint venture deferred revenue is included in the income of the joint venture.

NOTE 8

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATIONS, NET

Under the terms of the joint venture agreement, the Corporation agrees to pay an amount which provides the joint venture with an agreed rate of return. The Corporation's share of the joint venture's net income is netted against the contributions.

NOTE 9

GUARANTEE

The Corporation and Bovar have jointly and severally guaranteed payments of certain joint venture mortgages on housing properties of which balances outstanding at March 31, 1991 totalled $5.5 million. At March 31, 1990, similar guarantees under housing leases and mortgages totalled $5.2 million.

NOTE 10

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

Head office premises and certain basic office furnishings are provided by the Province of Alberta. These assets and certain administrative services are provided at no charge and accordingly are not reflected in these financial statements.

NOTE 11

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The 1990 figures have been reclassified where necessary to conform to 1991 presentation.

NOTE 12

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements have been approved by management and the Audit Committee.

Schedule of Operating Expenditures

For the year ended March 31, 1991 (thousands of dollars)

	Total
Waste treatment	$ 6,976
Waste handling	1,360
Advertising and promotion	813
External consultants	793
Salaries and group benefits	722
Rent	270
Warehousing	167
Professional fees	100
Capital asset purchases	82
Staff travel	76
Security	74
Printing and stationery	71
Repairs and maintenance	70
Members' honoraria and expenses	68
External travel	51
Insurance	41
Office expenses	38
Conference expenses	30
Postage and delivery	30
Orphan site reclamation	29
Utilities	27
Staff development	27
Telephone and fax	26
Swan Hills offsite services	21
Memberships and subscriptions	11
Total 1991	$11,973
Total 1990	$ 6,431

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